Iconographia Familiarum Naturalium Regni Vegetabilis delineata atque adjectis Familiarum characteribus, &c. ornata. Auctore A. Schnizlein, Dr. Ph. 4to. Bonn.

After a long interval, another number (xi.) of this valuable series of illustrations of the Natural Orders of Plants has been recently received. It contains elaborate figures, with very many anatomical details of the Orders noticed in it, and is quite equal in excellence to the former parts of this beautiful work. As has been remarked in speaking of Sturm's 'Flora,' it is to be feared that here also want of support is the cause of delay in publication. Few works have been slower in their publication, it being now fully fourteen years since the first number appeared, and there is still much wanted to render it complete. We much desire to see its continuation, as we have found it of great use in our botanical studies.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

ROYAL SOCIETY.

February 12, 1857.—W. R. Grove, Esq., V.P., in the Chair.

"Researches on the Reproductive Organs of the Annelids." By Thomas Williams, M.D., F.L.S.

In this paper the author seeks to establish the following general proposition, viz. that there prevails throughout the Actiniadæ, Echinodermata, Rotifera and Annelida, a special organ, which, under different phases, subserves different functions, which is essentially *identifiable* under every modification, reducible to the same type, and which constitutes the *root* of the Reproductive system in these families. To this special organ he proposes to apply the provisional name of the "*segmental organ**." In the chambers which are enclosed by the vertical dissepiments dividing the body of *Actinia*, convoluted tubular cords are contained which support the generative structures. It has not yet been proved whether the internal ends of these tubules open directly into the perivisceral chamber. These cords and their appended structures in the Actiniadæ constitute the *type* of a system of organs the prevalence of which throughout the Echinodermata, Rotifera and Annelida can, he believes, be clearly and satisfactorily proved. In the present memoir, however, the author proposes to confine his demonstrations to the anatomical varieties which the segmental organ presents in the class *Annelida*, contenting himself with merely in a passing manner pointing out the fact that the several variations of form, structure and number which this organ exhibits in the several genera of this class, are *represented* by similar variations in the different genera, especially of the class Echinodermata. He hoped to show that under very numerous appa-

* While he is convinced that the identity of this organ might readily be traced throughout other families of the lower Invertebrata, he will not permit himself at present to indulge in any wider generalization than that stated in the text.